



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/655,558

09/04/2003

Zaida Pericas

60027.0200USU1/BS030092

6412

39262

7590

07/11/2008

MERCHANT & GOULD BELL SOUTH CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 2903

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

MAGUIRE, LINDSAY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3692

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/11/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/655,558	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PERICAS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> LINDSAY M. MAGUIRE	<b>Art Unit</b> 3692	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-14, 16, 17, 19 and 22-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-14, 16, 17, 19 and 22-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Final action is in response to the application filed on September 4, 2003, the preliminary amendment filed on April 27, 2006 in which claims 7-9, 15, 18, 20, and 21 were cancelled and claims 30 and 31 were added, and the amendments filed on April 3, 2008.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 10-14, 16, 17, 19, and 22-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. PGPub. No. 2001/0056362 (Hanagan et al. '362), In view of "Cingular Offers Rollover Minutes" (Cingular).

Regarding claims 1-6, 10, and 30, Hanagan et al. '362 discloses a method of integrating billing and services management between a wireless telecommunications carrier and a wireline telecommunications carrier, comprising; provisioning a call unit sharing plan allowing a user to charge units of wireless usage and traits of wireline usage to one calling plan (paragraph [0050]); receiving wireless usage at a wireless carrier (paragraph [0078]); receiving wireline usage at a wireline usage rating platform (paragraph [0078]); routing the wireless usage to the wireline usage rating platform

Art Unit: 3692

(paragraph [0078]); and if any of the wireless or wireline usage requires a billing charge, charging may of the wireless or wireline usage to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079]). Additionally, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose preparing a single periodic bill showing charges to the call unit sharing plan associated with the wireless and wireline usage charged to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079]); and prior to charging any of the wireless or wireline usage to the call unit sharing plan, rating the wireless and wireline usage at the wireline usage rating platform to determine whether any of the wireless or wireline usage must be charged to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079 – 0080]). Furthermore, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose determining whether any of the wireless or wireline usage is associated with calling types requiring no charge (paragraphs [0089 – 0097]); whereby if any of the wireless or wireline usage is associated with calling types requiring no charge, designating the any of the wireless or wireline usage associated as requiring no charge (paragraphs [0089 – 0097]); whereby at least some of the wireless usage requires no charge because a wireless call associated with the at least some of the wireless usage requiring no charge was made during a free call period or a different rate call period (paragraphs [0128 – 0140]); and after preparing a single periodic bill, further comprising: settling revenue associated with the single periodic bill between the wireless carrier and the wireline carrier by apportioning an amount of the revenue associated with wireless services during a billing cycle associated with the single periodic bill to the wireless carrier; and apportioning an amount of the revenue associated with wireline services during the billing cycle associated with the single periodic bill to the wireline carrier (paragraphs [0129 – 0136,

Art Unit: 3692

0160, & 0196]); and whereby at least some of the wireless usage requires no charge because a wireless call associated with the at least some of the wireless usage requiring no charge was made from a wireless phone of a user to a wireline home phone of the user (paragraphs [0089-0097]).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring receiving a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period; rolling over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over (claim 1, lines 9-12). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8).

With respect to claims 11-14 and 16, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a method for synchronizing services between a first and second telecommunications services carrier, comprising: receiving a services order at a first services ordering platform of the first telecommunications services carrier requiring services changes that affect the second telecommunication services carrier (paragraphs [0079, 0080, & 0182-0186]); notifying the second telecommunications services carrier to provide the services order to the

Art Unit: 3692

second telecommunications services carrier (paragraphs 0143, 0144, & 0168-0172]). Additionally, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose ensuring that subscriber services at the first telecommunications services carrier are synchronized with subscriber services at the second telecommunications services carrier for any subscriber services affecting both the first and second telecommunications services carriers (paragraph [0105 – 0109]); ensuring that no subscriber services changes are made at the first telecommunications services carrier affecting the second telecommunications services carrier if a responsive services change is not made at the second telecommunications services carrier (paragraphs [0125, 0126, & 0138 – 0140]); and if a services change is made at the first telecommunications services carrier affecting the second telecommunications services carrier without making a required responsive services change at the second telecommunications services carrier, notifying the second telecommunications carrier of the services change at the first telecommunications services carrier (paragraphs [0168 – 0172]). Furthermore, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose, sending an integrated fulfillment notification to any subscriber making services changes with either the first telecommunications services carrier or the second telecommunications services carrier where the services changes affect both the first telecommunications services carrier and the second telecommunications services carrier (paragraphs [0082 & 0168 – 0172]).

Hanagan et al. '362 discloses the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring on a periodic basis, updating a customer affiliate

Art Unit: 3692

subscriber information database in a business services platform the service changes that affect the second telecommunications services carrier; and on a periodic basis, synchronizing batch files passed from a subscriber data system of the first telecommunications services carrier to the customer affiliated subscriber information database to ensure the customer affiliated subscriber information database has complete information related to a subscriber to the first telecommunications services carrier and the second telecommunications services carrier (claim 11, lines 11-18). However, Hanagan et al. '362 does disclose various forms of updating changes and matching changes are disclosed (in at least paragraphs [0082, 0094, 0172, 0181, 0192, 0213, 0217, 0219, 0230, 0271, 0272, & 0335]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to update and synchronize subscriber information in the database on a periodic basis, for the basic reason to keep files up to date, and the same across the board.

In regards to claim 17, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a system for integrating billing and services management between a wireless telecommunications carrier and a wireline telecommunications carrier, comprising; a wireless carder billing system operative to receive wireless call usage associated with wireless calls made via the wireless carrier (paragraph [0050]); to route the wireless call usage to a call usage rating platform at the wireline carrier (paragraph [0078]); the call usage rating platform at the wireline carrier operative to receive wireline call usage associated with wireline calls made via the wireline carrier (paragraph [0078]); to charge any of the wireless or

Art Unit: 3692

wireline call usage to a subscriber call unit sharing plan if any of the wireless or wireline call usage requires a billing charge (paragraph [0078]); to route rated call usage reformation for all wireless and wireline call usage requiring billing under the subscriber call unit sharing plan to a wireline carrier billing system (paragraphs [0078-0080]; and the wireline carrier billing system operative to prepare a single periodic bill showing charges to the subscriber call unit sharing plan associated with the wireless and wireline call usage charged to the call unit sharing plan (paragraphs [0078-0080]).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the system substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring a rollover management system operative to generate a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period; to roll over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over, and to indicate the number of units of call usage that have been rolled over to the subsequent usage period (claim 17, lines 17-21 & 26-27). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8). Additionally, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display, on the users bill for example, how many minutes are leftover, since it is already standard to show the minutes used, for the



Art Unit: 3692

basic reason of allowing users to see how many of their minutes are going to rollover into the next usage period.

Regarding claims 19, 22, and 31, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a method of integrating billing management between a wireless telecommunications carder and a wireline telecommunications carrier, comprising; provisioning a call unit sharing plan allowing a user to charge units of wireless usage and units of wireline usage to one calling plan (paragraph [0050]); receiving wireless usage at a wireless carrier; receiving wireline usage at a wireline usage rating platform; routing the wireless usage to the wireline usage rating platform (paragraph [0078]); rating the wireless and wireline usage at the wireline usage rating platform to determine whether any of the wireless or wireline usage must be charged to the call unit sharing plan if any of the wireless or wireline usage requires a billing charge, charging the any of the wireless or wireline usage to the call unit sharing plan (paragraphs [0078-0080]); and preparing a single periodic bill showing charges to the call unit sharing plan associated with the wireless and wireline usage charged to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079]). Additionally, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose that after preparing a single periodic bill, further comprising: settling revenue associated with the single periodic bill between the wireless carrier and the wireline carrier by apportioning an amount of the revenue associated with wireless services during a billing cycle associated with the single periodic bill to the wireless carrier; and apportioning an amount of the revenue associated with wireline services during the billing cycle associated with the single periodic bill to the wireline carrier

Art Unit: 3692

(paragraphs [0129 – 0136, 0160, & 0196]); and comprising ff any of the wireless usage comprises a wireless call from a wireless phone of a user to a wireline home phone of the user, designating the wireless or wireline usage associated with the wireless call as requiring no charge (paragraphs 0089-0097]).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring receiving a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period; rolling over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over, and showing the number of units of call usage that have been rolled over to the subsequent usage period (claim 19, lines 12-15 & 18). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8). Additionally, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display, on the users bill for example, how many minutes are leftover, since it is already standard to show the minutes used, for the basic reason of allowing users to see how many of their minutes are going to rollover into the next usage period.

With respect to claims 23-25, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a method of integrating billing management between a plurality of telecommunications services systems, comprising; receiving first call usage associated with calls transacted via a first services system (paragraphs [0050 & 0078]); receiving second call usage associated with calls transacted via a second services system (paragraph [0078]); routing the first call usage and the second call usage to one or more call usage rating platforms, at the one or more call usage rating platforms, determining billing information associated with each of the first and second call usages (paragraph [0078]); routing billing information associated with each of the first and second call usages to a billing system (paragraphs [0078-0079]); and preparing a single periodic bill showing charges associated with the first and second call usages (paragraph [0079]). Additionally, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose that routing the first call usage and the second call usage to the one or more call usage rating platforms includes routing the first call usage to a first call usage rating platform and routing the second call usage to a second call usage rating platform (paragraphs [0078-0080]; Figure 6); and whereby routing the first call usage and the second call usage to the one or more call usage rating platforms includes routing the first call usage and the second call usage to a single call usage rating platform at one of the first or second services systems (paragraphs [0078-0080]; Figure 6).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring receiving a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period;

Art Unit: 3692

rolling over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over, and showing the number of units of call usage that have been rolled over to the subsequent usage period (claim 23, lines 12-15 & 17-18). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8). Additionally, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display, on the users bill for example, how many minutes are leftover, since it is already standard to show the minutes used, for the basic reason of allowing users to see how many of their minutes are going to rollover into the next usage period.

Regarding claims 26-28, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a method of integrating billing and services management between a wireless telecommunications carrier and a wireline telecommunications carrier, comprising; provisioning a call unit sharing plan allowing a user to charge units of wireless usage and units of wireline usage to one calling plan (paragraph [0050]); receiving wireless usage at a wireless carrier (paragraph [0078]); receiving wireline usage at a wireline usage rating platform (paragraph [0078]); receiving the wireless usage at the wireline usage rating platform (paragraphs [0078-0080]); add if any of the wireless or wireline usage requires a billing charge, charging any of the wireless or wireline usage to the call unit sharing plan

(paragraph [0079]). Additionally, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose preparing a single periodic bill showing charges to the call unit sharing plan associated with the wireless and wireline usage charged to the call unit-sharing plan (paragraph [0079]); prior to charging any of the wireless or wireline usage to the call unit sharing plan: rating each wireless and wireline usage at the wireline usage rating platform to determine whether any usage must be charged to the call unit sharing plan: determining whether any wireless usage or wireline usage is associated with calling types requiring no charge; and in response to any wireless usage or wireline usage being associated with calling types requiring no charge, designating the any wireless usage or wireline usage requiring no charge as requiring no charge (paragraphs [0079, 0080, & 0089 – 0097]).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring receiving a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period; rolling over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over (claim 26, lines 9-12). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8).

In regards to claim 29, Hanagan et al. '362 disclose a method of integrating billing and services management between a wireless telecommunications carrier and a wireline telecommunications carrier, comprising; provisioning a call unit sharing plan allowing a user to charge traits of wireless usage and units of wireline usage to one calling plan (paragraph [0050]); receiving wireline call usage at a wireline rating platform (paragraph [0078]); receiving wireless call usage at the wireline rating platform (paragraph [0078]); if any of the wireless or wireline call usage requires a billing charge, charging the any of the wireless or wireline call usage requiring a billing charge to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079]); and preparing a single periodic bill showing charges to the call unit sharing plan associated with the wireless and wireline call usage charged to the call unit sharing plan (paragraph [0079]).

Hanagan et al. '362 disclose the method substantially as claimed, as advanced above, with the exception of requiring receiving a rollover matrix indicating a number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over to a subsequent usage period; rolling over to the subsequent usage period the number of units of call usage that are available for rolling over, and showing the number of units of call usage that have been rolled over to the subsequent usage period (claim 29, lines 10-13 & 16). Cingular discloses providing a user with rollover minutes that are unused minutes that can be added to their next month's minute allotment (paragraph 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hanagan et al. '362, in view of Cingular, for the basic reason of

Art Unit: 3692

allowing users to keep their unused minutes for a time when they will need them (paragraphs 6-8). Additionally, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display, on the users bill for example, how many minutes are leftover, since it is already standard to show the minutes used, for the basic reason of allowing users to see how many of their minutes are going to rollover into the next usage period.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 10-14, 16, 17, 19, and 22-31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts of disclosed by the examiner.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

Art Unit: 3692

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINDSAY M. MAGUIRE whose telephone number is (571)272-6039. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-670202. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 3692

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lindsay M. Maguire  
7/3/08  
/Lindsay M Maguire/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3692

/Kambiz Abdi/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner,  
Art Unit 3692